raised by the Group 'A officers as well as their Associations. As regards promotional avenues it has been clarified that the officers after absorption in BSNL/MTNL would have promotional avenues upto IDA pay scale of Rs. 25000-650-30200 (corresponding CDA Rs. 22400-525-24500) depending upon the company's business and policies.

The Government also had a series of discussions with the Associations of officers on the issue of the options provided by the Government for absorption. However, a large number of cases have been filed by Group A officers of Indian Telecom service (ITS) and other services individually and through their Associations challenging the terms of absorption and are pending adjudication by various Benches of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and High Courts. As on date, pending final disposal of cases, interim orders of various benches of CAT and High Courts are in operation.

Thus, the subject matter of terms of absorption of Group A officers in BSNL/MTNL pursuant to the letter dated 24.03.2005 being under adjudication by the courts of law, is at present *sub-judice.*

Appointment of compassionate grounds in MTNL/BSNL

†145. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with regard to appointment on compassionate grounds in BSNL and MTNL in different states of the country and the details thereof,

(b) the number of persons appointed on compassionate grounds in these States during the last three years and the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to expedite such appointements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.